

**MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**

Tuesday, February 10, 2015
6:00 pm Kelly Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Roll Call:

Members present: David Rollo, Gary Charbonneau, Jessica Pittman, Jeff Jewel, Molly O'Donnell, Andrea Jobe, Rebecca Swanson, Stephanie Richards, Joe Kielar, Jana McGee, Randy Cassady

Regrets: Bill Brown

Staff: Jacqui Bauer

Public Dedaimia Whitney, City Environmental Commission

Chair Jeff Jewel called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Announcements:

Dave noted that the deer cull has been cancelled because of alternative abundant food sources that kept the baits from being effective. Tim Carter from Ball State will be giving a presentation on his urban deer research on February 16 at 7pm in City Council Chambers.

Molly gave an announcement about the ReInvest IU effort to encourage IU to divest from fossil fuels. The trustees voted negatively on their request, but the students are continue to advocate.

Molly also announced that she will step down as co-chair and asked if anyone is interested. We'll vote on this at the meeting next month.

SustainIU Week is next week and there are a number events associated with this, including a showing of the movie Chasing Ice and a presentation by director James Balog.

Randy also noted that he will be stepping down from the commission.

Approval of Minutes:

The January minutes were approved unanimously.

Report from the Chair

Update on the Monroe County Energy Challenge: Molly and Jana are working on a rebate and tax incentive summary document and a standard PowerPoint to be used at public presentation.

Other activities:

- There will be an Energy Fair hosted by the Energy Challenge at the Farmers Market on May 23. Duke and other utilities will be there.
- Several funding applications have been turned in and others are in process that will help fund interns and other initiative support.
- The Education Committee had a meeting on January 21 and is working on resolving data questions related to school energy performance.

Update on STAR Communities:

Stephanie Richards will be taking over leadership of the STAR Communities effort, picking up where previous efforts by the BCOS committee and previous interns left off. She and Jacqui proposed using the monthly BCOS meetings to give overviews of particular STAR topics. These presentations would then be followed by focused work sessions to gather data for specific topic areas.

Stephanie will send the high-level overview of STAR to the commission, and Jacqui and Stephanie will try to arrange for an Economy & Jobs speaker next month.

Report from the Sustainability Coordinator

The Terrible Horrible Ride took place last Saturday, again with beautiful, sunny weather.

Other activities have focused primarily on the Monroe County Energy Challenge, outlined above.

Committee reports

Environmental Commission Planning Committee: Rebecca has agreed to represent BCOS on the Planning Committee. She is working to add a strong sustainability component to the discussions. How much detail does the commission want to hear about this committee's discussions?

Dave noted a concern that we're seeing many new development proposals while we're still waiting to finish the update to the Growth Policies Plan. Could we consider taking a breather from developments for a period? Dedaimia from the Environmental Commission noted that the two commissions could work together to ask the council to consider this issue, particularly in the context of the Graduate Hotel that was approved at the Plan Commission last night.

Could the City consider asking for more from developers who want significant variances in terms of green features? How can the City set the bar higher? Rebecca and Dave will work together over the next month to develop some recommendations.

Bring Your Bag Bloomington update: This committee (led by the Center for Sustainable Living) has been continuing to meet and is finding the issue to be very complex. Research is continuing, but the committee is also working on a draft ordinance to further the discussion. This will be followed by discussions with City Council and others.

It would be helpful to have data on whether the City has faced expenses related to plastic bag clean up, equipment damage, etc.

Randy noted that even having a discussion about the issue has helped educate the population and make people more conscientious.

New business:

City Council is moving ahead with the Food Charter. Dave will let everyone know what the hearing date will be.

Work continues on making Bloomington a food hub. Jeff has been involved with Purdue University and the state. Conversations are still in formative stages.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 7:05pm.

Next month: fill co-chair position; STAR topic review/Economy & Jobs; committee reports: EC, ECPC, BYBB, STAR